

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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JANUARY 22, 1947. NOT TO BE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED,
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GERMAN WAR DOCUMENTS PROJECT
(Simultaneous release in London)

The Department of State and the British Foreign Office have agreed that the publication of German Foreign Office records and other related documents in their possession shall be entrusted to eminent historical scholars. The scholars have been granted free access to the German archives, and will select for publication all documents which are, in their judgment, essential to an understanding of German foreign policy before and during World War II.

These records are now in joint Anglo-American custody in Berlin, where for over a year a team of specialists has been microfilming the more important documents. The British and American Governments are now taking the unprecedented step of making these documents available to historians of high reputation and have asked that they be guided in their task of preparing the material for publication solely by considerations of scholarship.

The British editor, John W. Wheeler-Bennett of Oxford University, and the American editor, Raymond J. Sontag of the University of California, met in Berlin during December and agreed upon a tentative schedule of publication, concentrating first on the volumes covering the years 1937-1941. The editors-in-chief will be assisted by other historians, some of whom will make the preliminary selection in Berlin; others will assist in the task of preparing the material for publication. The volumes will be published first in the original German.

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